

IN THE CLAIMS

1-7. canceled

8. (original)A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca, the method comprising a combined system of a reduction step and a circulation-type electrolysis step, wherein said reduction step includes the steps of: holding a molten salt, containing CaCl_2 and having Ca dissolved therein, in a reactor vessel; and reacting a metallic chloride containing TiCl_4 with Ca in the molten salt to generate Ti particles or Ti alloy particles in the molten salt, and wherein said circulation-type electrolysis is configured that a molten salt, being used for producing said Ti or Ti alloys and discharged from said reactor vessel, is electrolyzed to generate and replenish Ca in said molten salt which is returned to said reactor vessel, and wherein, in electrolyzing as above, an alloy electrode made of a molten Ca alloy is employed for a cathode.

9. (original)A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 8, wherein, in said electrolysis step, a molten salt within an electrolytic cell, together with the interface between a molten Ca alloy, constituting said alloy electrode, and said molten salt, is divided into an anode side and a counter-anode side by installing a partition wall, and wherein a molten salt to be supplied from said reactor vessel is introduced on said counter-anode side.

10. (original) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 8, includes a Ti separation step in which the generated Ti particles or Ti alloy particles are separated from a molten salt within or outside said reactor vessel, wherein, in a discharging step in which a molten salt being used for generating Ti particles or Ti alloy particles is discharged outside said reactor vessel, Ti particles or Ti alloy particles generated in a molten salt are discharged, together with said molten salt, outside the reactor vessel, and wherein, in said Ti separation step, said Ti particles or Ti alloy particles are separated from a molten salt discharged outside the reactor vessel, and wherein, in said electrolysis step, the molten salt from which said Ti particles or Ti alloy particles are separated and removed is electrolyzed.

11. (currently amended) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim [[1]] 8, wherein, in said electrolysis step, a metallic chloride containing $TiCl_4$ is supplied in a molten salt.

12. (original) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca, the method comprising:

a Ca generation step by electrolyzing, wherein a molten salt containing $CaCl_2$ is electrolyzed by employing a molten Ca alloy as a cathode to increase a Ca content ratio in said molten Ca alloy;

a Ca replenishment step, wherein the molten Ca alloy in which Ca has increased by the Ca generation step gets contacted with the molten salt containing CaCl_2 to have Ca dissolved in said molten salt; and,

a Ti generation step by a reducing reaction, wherein a metallic chloride containing TiCl_4 is supplied into the molten salt in which Ca gets dissolved in the Ca replenishment step to thereby generate Ti particles or Ti alloy particles in the molten salt.

13. (original) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 12, further including a Ti separation step in which Ti particles or Ti alloy particles generated in a molten salt are separated from the molten salt.

14. (original) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 12, wherein a molten salt containing CaCl_2 is held in an electrolytic cell as well as a reactor vessel, and wherein a Ca generation step by electrolyzing proceeds within the electrolytic cell, while transferring a molten Ca alloy from the electrolytic cell to the reactor vessel, to undergo a Ca replenishment step as well as a Ti generation step, and wherein the molten Ca alloy in which Ca is consumed within the reactor vessel returns to the electrolytic cell.

15. (original) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by

Ca according to claim 14, wherein the temperature of molten salt in said electrolytic cell is set to be lower than that of molten salt in said reactor vessel.

16. (original) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 12, wherein, as holding a molten salt containing CaCl_2 within a reactor vessel doubling as an electrolytic cell, an electrolysis by employing a molten Ca alloy as a cathode is carried out, while a molten salt within the reactor vessel, together with the interface between said molten salt and the molten Ca alloy, is divided into an anode side and a counter-anode side by installing a partition wall, in which a Ca generation step is carried out on the anode side and a Ca replenishment step as well as a Ti generation step are carried out on the counter-anode side.

17. (currently amended) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim [[7]] 8, further including a chlorination step in which Cl_2 generated in said electrolysis step is reacted with TiO_2 to thereby generate TiCl_4 , wherein TiCl_4 generated in the chlorination step is utilized in the generation reaction for Ti or Ti alloys within a reactor vessel.

18. (currently amended) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 13, wherein generated Ti or Ti alloys, together with a molten salt, is discharged outside said reactor vessel, and

wherein said Ti or Ti alloys are separated from the molten salt outside the vessel.

19. (previously presented) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 13, wherein a molten salt being separated from Ti or Ti alloys in a Ti separation step is introduced to a Ca generation step by electrolyzing and/or a Ti generation step by a reducing reaction.

20. (previously presented) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 13, wherein a molten salt being separated from Ti or Ti alloys in a Ti separation step is utilized in a Ti generation step to be reacted with a molten Ca alloy in which Ca is consumed to increase Ca in the molten Ca alloy by unreacted Ca in the molten salt, and then, the molten Ca alloy is used in a Ca replenishment step.

21. (currently amended) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 12, wherein said molten salt containing CaCl_2 is a multi-element-system molten salt which contains at least one of NaCl , KCl , LiCl and CaF_2 other than CaCl_2 .

22. (previously presented) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through

Serial No.: 10/575,224

reduction by Ca according to claim 12, wherein said metallic chloride containing $TiCl_4$ is a mixture of $TiCl_4$ and other metallic chloride.

23. (previously presented) A method for producing Ti or Ti alloys through reduction by Ca according to claim 12, wherein Ti or Ti alloys to be generated are particles with an average particle size of 0.5 – 50 μm .